We claim:

1.   A peptide of the formula: $R^1 - X^1 - X^2 - R^2$

        wherein X^1 is an aromatic amino acid residue;

5   X^2 is any amino acid residue;

                  R^1 is NH_2 - or an amino acid sequence X^3 -

        $X^4 - X^5$

        wherein X^3 is an aliphatic amino acid residue having

a side chain hydroxyl group and X^4 and X^5 are the same or

10 different and are any amino acid residue and wherein R^2 is

a sequence of 1 to 3 amino acid residues which are the

same or different and are aliphatic amino acid residues.

2.   The peptide of claim 1

                  wherein X^1 is Phe;

15   X^2 is Glu or Ala;

                            R^2 is Gly-Gly;

                            R^1 is $X^3 - X^4 - X^5$ wherein

                            X^3 is Thr,

20   X^4 is Asp or Ala and

                            X^5 is Ile or Ala.

3.   The peptide of claim 1

                  wherein R^1 is NH_2 -;

                            X^1 is an aromatic amino acid;

25   X^2 is Glu or Ala and

                            R^2 is Gly, Gly-Gly, Gly-Gly-Gly or

                            sarcosine.

4.   The peptide of claim 3

30   wherein X^1 is Phe and X^2 is Glu.

5.   The peptide of claim 2 having an amino acid sequence

selected from the group

                consisting of:

35   (a)   Thr-Asp-Ile-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:8);

        (b)   Thr-Ala-Ile-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:3);

        (c)   Thr-Asp-Ala-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:4);

                and

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(d)   Thr-Asp-Ile-Phe-Ala-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:6).

6.   The peptide of claim 3 having an amino acid sequence selected from the group
        consisting of:

(a)   Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:9);

(b)   Phe-Glu-Gly;   and

(c)   Phe-Glu-Sarcosine.

7.   The peptide of claim 1 wherein R^2 is a sequence of 1 to 3 amino acid residues which are the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of glycine, sarcosine, azetidine, nipecotic acid and pipecotic acid.

8.   The peptide of claim 3 wherein R^2 is a sequence of 1 to 3 amino acid residues which are the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of glycine, sarcosine, azetidine, nipecotic acid and pipecotic acid.

9.   The peptide of ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1 wherein at least one amino acid is a D amino acid.

10.   The peptide of claim 4 ~~or 6~~ wherein Phe and Glu are D amino acids.

11.   A peptide having the amino acid sequence Ser-Gly-Glu-Gly-Val-Arg (Sequence ID NO:1).

12.   A pharmaceutical composition comprising a peptide of ~~any of claims 1 to 11~~ Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13.   A method for treating or preventing SIRS-induced hypotension in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a peptide of ~~any of claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9 or 11~~ Claim 1 or of an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide.

14.   A method for treating or preventing anaphylactic

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hypotension in a mammal comprising administering to the
mammal an effective amount of a peptide of any of claims
1 to 10, or of an effective fragment or derivative of
said peptide.

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15.   A method of reducing or preventing an anaphylactic
reaction in a mammal comprising administering an
effective amount of a peptide of any of claims 1 to 10 or
of an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide to
10   the mammal.

16.   A method of reducing or preventing an endotoxic
reaction in a mammal comprising administering an
effective amount of a peptide of any of claims 1, 2, 5,
15   7, 9 or 11 or an effective fragment or derivative of said
peptide to the mammal.

17.   A method for treating an inflammatory disorder in a
mammal comprising administering to the mammal an
20   effective amount of a peptide of any claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9
or 10 or of an effective fragment or derivative of the
peptide to the mammal.

18.   The method of claim 17 wherein the inflammatory
25   disorder is selected from the group consisting of a
rheumatic disorder, inflammatory bowel disease, post-
ischemic inflammation or systemic inflammatory response
syndrome.

30   19.   An antibody which specifically recognises an epitope
of a peptide of any of claims 1 to 11.

20.   A method of determining the peptide SGP-T or the
peptide SGPS in a biological fluid comprising obtaining a
35   sample of the biological fluid and determining the
peptide in the fluid by immunoassay employing an antibody
of claim 19.

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)